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3. In addition to taking care of their own children and households, many mothers spend time improving their community. In fact, in a 12-month period between 2000 and 2001, nearly two in three mothers living with a child under 18 (68%) volunteered with an organization or to improve their neighborhood, according to a Woman's Bureau analysis of the Current Population Survey. The 30% of mothers who volunteered for an organization during this period provided an average of nearly 48 hours of volunteering time.
4. Even after their children are grown, many mothers continue to provide unpaid care as grandmothers. In 2001, 1.1 million U.S. women were raising their grandchildren – 2.8 million did in all. These numbers only reflect cases where grandmothers were providing housing and were responsible for most of the daily needs of the grandchildren – they do not account for the hours of babysitting that many grandmothers provide for their grandchildren.
5. When they have a child, women experience what's called a "motherhood wage penalty" that results in lower earnings even after controlling for education, occupation and other characteristics. Over their lifetimes, these lower wages, coupled with reduced work hours due to caregiving obligations, result in employer costs in millions of more than \$295,000.

Mothers – and all caregivers – deserve to thrive at home and at work. To achieve this, we need to support both the paid and the unpaid work moms do. This means improving our care infrastructure, including access to affordable child care, free and universal preschool and adequate paid family and medical leave. It also means ensuring quality jobs with family-sustaining wages for the care workforce. To support both paid and unpaid caregivers, the Biden-Harris Administration issued an executive order to increase access to high-quality care and support caregivers, and the Department of Labor published guidance for employers hoping to take advantage of federal infrastructure funding on how they can support child care and long-term care for their workers.

These policies would likely help many in the U.S. and relieve a significant portion of the pressure on moms. Moreover, they would bolster the U.S. economy. A more robust care infrastructure would likely increase the number of women, especially mothers, who enter the labor market. Indeed, if women's labor force participation in the U.S. were comparable to that of Canada or Germany – countries that invest more in family-supporting policies – then the U.S. labor force would gain about 5 million more women, generating \$75 billion in additional economic activity each year, according to Woman's Bureau estimates.

For more data on mothers in the economy, check out the Woman's Bureau's website.

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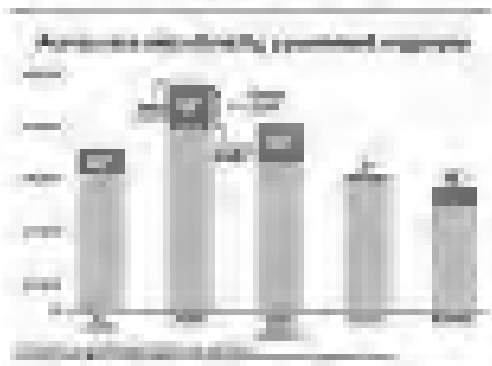
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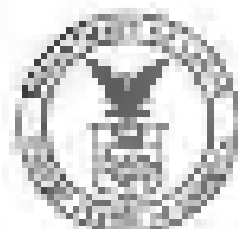
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